

ELC Formulary User Guide and Key
“Traffic Light” system

The colour allocation has been made based on decisions by various medicines management committees across ELC

Green background and bold letters– approved in ELC for 1st line use

Green background - non bold = second, third line use

Drugs are included in this section on the basis of available evidence base for safety, efficacy and cost effectiveness. This is a pragmatic list of products/medications for use on the majority of those requiring treatment. the medicines included should be considered first when treating. practitioners should have valid reasons for differing from the recommendations.

Amber – there are several reasons a drug falls into this category

Shared Care: approved for hospital initiation and continuation by GPs or for GP initiation under specialist advice. Information should be provided by the specialist on the use, monitoring and follow up for the drug and condition. Responsibility for prescribing does not need to be accepted if sufficient information has not been provided.

A Shared Care Guideline (SCG) may be available. Where it is, obtain guideline from secondary care and if happy to prescribe in accordance with the guidelines, take over the agreed responsibilities including prescribing.

The General Practitioner requires specialist knowledge and /or training to prescribe e.g. methadone prescribing

Red – Drugs should only be prescribed in secondary care by or under the explicit direction of a specialist. Or not recommended for use because of lack of evidence of clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness or safety

GREY- Not approved by any medicines management committees under ELC for prescribing in primary care. Or not recommended for use because of lack of evidence of clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and not NICE approved

Not listed – not yet been considered by one of the formal groups mentioned above OR is a RED drug